

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621 to Iwamura et al. ("*Iwamura*"). By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 8, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, and 59 to more particularly define the scope of the invention. Claims 1-68 remain pending and under current examination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-68 as allegedly anticipated by *Iwamura*. Independent claim 1, for example, recites a transmission method for transmitting data related to a first device comprising, among other things, storing connection information that includes "information about connections between internal units within the first device" (emphasis added). *Iwamura* fails to teach or suggest at least the connection information of claim 1.

The Examiner asserts "*Iwamura* discloses in figures 5 and 9, tables 500 and 800 stored in RAM, which indicates various units and information about internal processing units" (Office Action at p. 8). The Examiner further asserts that the DSS IRD corresponds to the claimed first device (Office Action at p. 2), and that tables 500 and 800 "also indicate[] the internal connections between internal units" (Office Action at p. 4). Applicants disagree. Tables 500 and 800 do not disclose connections between any of the internal units that *Iwamura* describes as being internal to the DSS IRD, for example a tuner, demodulator, RAM, and ROM (col. 4, lines 2-31).

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Applicants have considered the possibility that the Examiner is asserting that the “ports” in *Iwamura* correspond to the claimed “internal units.” However, the ports in *Iwamura* connect to other, i.e. external, devices (Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 64-65, note DSS IRD has two ports, each of which is connected to a separate device), and cannot correspond to the claimed internal units

Moreover, even assuming the “ports” in *Iwamura* are “internal units,” the claim further recites “connections between” the internal units within a first device. The DSS IRD ports in tables 500 and 800 are connected to external devices, for example the DVD at port 1 and the DVCR1 at port 2 (*Iwamura* Figs. 1, 9), and not to each other.

Because *Iwamura* fails to teach at least storing information about connections between internal units as recited in claim 1, *Iwamura* cannot anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claim 1. Although of different scope, amended independent claims 8, 10, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, and 59 recite features similar to those of claim 1. *Iwamura* therefore does not anticipate claims 8, 10, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, and 59 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1; claims 9 and 13 depend from claim 8; claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10; claims 15-24 depend from claim 14; claims 26-31 depend from claim 25; claim 33 depends from claim 32; claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34; claims 38-46 depend from claim 37; claims 48-53 depend from claim 47; claim 55 depends from claim 54; claims 57 and 58 depend from claim 56; and claims 60-68 depend from claim 59. Because *Iwamura* does not support the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 25, 32, 34, 37, 47, 54, 56, or 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Iwamura*

also does not support the rejection of dependent claims 2-7, 9, 11-13, 15-24, 26-31, 33, 35-36, 38-46, 48-53, 55, 57, 58, and 60-68 for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2-7, 26-31, and 48-53 for additional reasons. Claim 2, for example, recites a transmission method wherein “the connection information held in the table includes ... information about which formats the first device can input or output.” *Iwamura* fails to teach or suggest at least this subject matter of claim 2.

The Examiner asserts *Iwamura* discloses “each device uses a self identification format ... to identify its input and output format” (Office Action at p. 5). Applicants disagree. *Iwamura* discloses “each node receives a self identification packet ... and stores portions of the information ... in a self identification packet table” (*Iwamura* col. 5, lines 25-30). While the self identification packet itself is in a predefined format (Fig. 4), *Iwamura* does not disclose that the packet itself contains information identifying available input or output formats. The tables constructed by *Iwamura*, i.e. tables 500 and 800, also do not indicate available input and output formats. Therefore, *Iwamura* does not anticipate dependent claim 2, or dependent claims 3-7, 26-31, and 48-53.

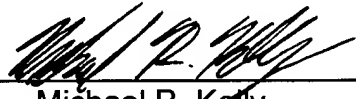
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 1-68.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921